

University of Montana

## ScholarWorks at University of Montana

---

University of Montana News Releases, 1928,  
1956-present

University Relations

---

12-10-1999

### UM center may house regional humanities institute

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/newsreleases>

**Let us know how access to this document benefits you.**

---

#### Recommended Citation

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations, "UM center may house regional humanities institute" (1999). *University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present*. 16373. <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/newsreleases/16373>

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the University Relations at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact [scholarworks@mso.umt.edu](mailto:scholarworks@mso.umt.edu).



The University of  
**Montana**

UNIVERSITY RELATIONS • MISSOULA, MT 59812 • 406-243-2522 • FAX: 406-243-4520

---

## **NEWS RELEASE**

---

This release is available electronically on INN (News Net.)

Dec. 10, 1999

**Contact:** UM O'Connor Center for the Rocky Mountain West, (406) 243-7700.

### **UM CENTER MAY HOUSE REGIONAL HUMANITIES INSTITUTE**

#### **MISSOULA —**

The O'Connor Center for the Rocky Mountain West at The University of Montana has been awarded a \$50,000 planning grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The grant will enable the center to compete to become one of 10 regional humanities centers – places where Americans can celebrate and explore their unique histories, people, cultures, languages, landscapes and architecture.

Center administrators will use the grant to complete a survey of regional humanities resources and create a framework for a humanities center. This work will be carried out by a planning council, made up of representatives from the region's five Rocky Mountain states and two Canadian provinces.

UM was one of 16 institutions across the United States to receive a \$50,000 planning grant from NEH. Each institution will compete for the right to establish one of 10 centers for the study of regional characteristics.

The institution in this region that comes up with the most credible proposal, submitted to NEH by the end of 2000, will receive a \$5 million implementation grant. In the Rocky Mountain region, a second planning grant was awarded to the University of Utah in Salt Lake City.

-more-



Each institution receiving those awards will be expected to match this amount three to one, raising \$15 million over the next seven years. The goal is for each of the 10 centers to have a \$20 million endowment to support regional humanities research, education, preservation and public programs.

In announcing the planning grants, NEH Acting Deputy Chair George Farr said, "People everywhere define themselves through the places where they live or where they grew up – their 'sense of place.' History, folklore, language and landscape – all the things we know as the humanities – shape us in deep and lasting ways. These regional humanities centers will serve as reservoirs for a region's cultural heritage, as gathering places for shared learning by people of all ages and backgrounds, and as springboards for new research."

The 16 planning grants, funded by private donations, were awarded to institutions based on their abilities to collaborate with other cultural institutions in their region, support research on regional topics, document regional history, preserve cultural resources, develop K-12 learning opportunities, build college-level degree programs in regional studies and foster cultural tourism.

Formed in 1992, the O'Connor Center for the Rocky Mountain West is a regional studies and public policy institute designed to sharpen Westerners' understanding of their region and guide visions for its future. It is named for famed actor Carroll O'Connor and his wife, Nancy Fields O'Connor, both UM graduates.

###

CBS  
Local, state dailies  
Regcen.rl